

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma et al. (US 5,774,634) [“Honma”] in view of Takeuchi et al. (US 6,108,105) [“Takeuchi”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an image transformation apparatus that comprises “an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the image received by said image receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image.” The Examiner contends that data recognizer 504-A of Fig. 27 corresponds to the claimed discrimination section.

Honma discloses that data recognizer 504-A recognizes whether or not data received from the host computer is multivalued data (col. 23, lines 26-27). Honma also discloses that image data that is not multivalued such as character and line picture are processed separately than data that is multivalued (col. 24, lines 36-50). This allows for multivalued data within an image to be compressed separately than binary data within the image (see col. 25, lines 5-9).

Applicant submits that, at most, the cited section discloses that data within an image may be discriminated based on multivalued data. Accordingly, the system in Honma merely divides the image into different portions. Therefore, Honma does not disclose or suggest “an image sort

discrimination section for discriminating whether the image received by said image receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image.” (emphasis added).

In addition, the present invention as set forth in claim 1 has been further clarified to recite that the image received by the image receiving section “is either a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image.” The entire invention of Honma is designed to differentiate different types of data (binary or multivalued) within an image based on page describing language, not the input image itself. See col. 5, lines 59-67 (Although this section describes embodiment one, Applicant submits that the description of the input image to the input terminal in the system of Honma is representative of all the embodiments).

Takeuchi does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Honma in view of Takeuchi does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed image sort discrimination section as set forth in claim 1.

Because claims 5 recites features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 2, 4 and 6 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Claim 7 recites that the “image receiving section is adapted to receive images from a raster image processor.” The Examiner contends that interpreter 402 of Fig. 22 discloses this feature.

Applicant submits that the cited section clearly discloses that the input terminal 401 receives image data in page describing language, not as raster image data. After receiving the image data, Honma discloses that it is converted to raster image data by interpreter 402. Col. 20, line 61 to col. 21, line 7. Accordingly, Honma does not disclose or suggest that the “image receiving section is adapted to receive images from a raster image processor,” as set forth in claim 7. Takeuchi does not cure this deficiency.

To the extent the Examiner may be contending that a section after interpreter 402 is the claimed image receiving section, Applicant submits that the Examiner is improperly shifting the interpretation of image receiving section between claims. In claim 1, the Examiner interprets input terminal 1 of Fig 4 (embodiment 4) as allegedly corresponding to the claimed image receiving section. Accordingly, the corresponding section in Fig. 22 (embodiment 11) would be input terminal 401, not a section after interpreter 402 as the Examiner appears to be contending.

In addition, the Examiner uses disclosures related to embodiments 4, 11 and 13 in the rejection of the subject matter of claim 7. The Examiner has not cited any section of Honma that suggests that these different embodiments are combinable. Without such a suggestion, Applicant submits that the Examiner’s rejection is improper. *Ex parte Bewther*, 71 USPQ2d 1313, 1316 (BPAI 2003).

Claim 10 recites that “the received images do not have page description language.” The Examiner cites that the image data after interpreter 402 does not have page description language.

Applicant submits that Honma clearly discloses that the input images to terminal 401 have page describing language (col. 20, lines 64-66). The Examiner’s contentions that Honma

discloses that “discrimination is performed on raster image data” is not supported. Honma discloses that the image data is simultaneously subjected to discrimination and raster image conversion (col. 20, lines 67 to col. 21, line 2), not that discrimination is performed on raster image data. In fact, the disclosure in Honma would suggest that page describing language is essential in its discrimination section. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the image data sent to the discrimination section of Honma must have page describing language for the system to work.

Accordingly, Honma does not disclose or suggest that “the received images do not have page description language.” Takeuchi does not cure this deficiency.

In addition, Applicant submits that the shift in the interpretation of the claimed received images and the use of different embodiments is improper for reasons analogous to those given in claim 7.

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma in view of Takeuchi and Triplett et al. (US 6,347,153) [“Triplett”]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Because Triplett does not cure the deficient teachings of Honma and Takeuchi, Applicant submits that claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma in view of Takeuchi and Tanioka (US 5,315,382) [“Tanioka”]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Because Tanioka does not cure the deficient teachings of Honma and Takeuchi, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma in view of Takeuchi and Kumashiro (US 5,870,503) ["Kumashiro"]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Because Kumashiro does not cure the deficient teachings of Honma and Takeuchi, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

3. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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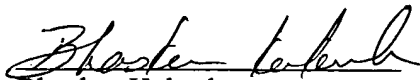
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Bhaskar Kakarla
Registration No. 54,627

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